

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5-6, 8, 10-12, 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,823. Examiner declares claims 3-4, 9 as allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include dependent claim 3, as proposed by the examiner. Claim 3 has been deleted. Therefore, claim 1 as presented is considered to be allowable.

Claims 2, 4-6 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is allowable, claims 2, 4-6 are also allowable.

Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include dependent claim 9, as proposed by the examiner. Claim 9 has been deleted. Therefore, claim 7 as presented is considered to be allowable.


Claims 8, 10-14 depend on claim 7. Since claim 7 is allowable, claims 8, 10-14 are also allowable.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
S. Hossain Beladi, Reg. No. 42,311
(858) 651-4470

QUALCOMM Incorporated
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 658-5787
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502